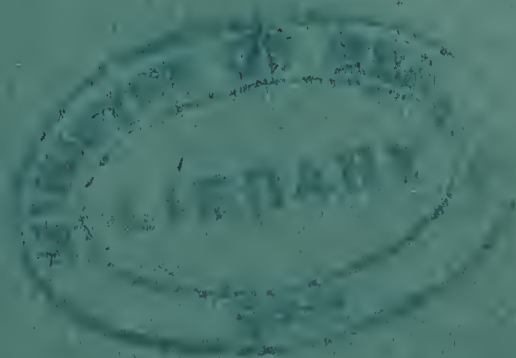


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ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

J. G. HAILWOOD, M.O.H.

Thos. Wall & Sons Ltd., Printers, "Observer" Office, Wallgate, Wigan.

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Presented to the District Council

October 12th, 1948

URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL



Summary of the Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

Councillor J. GASKELL, J.P. (Chairman).

Councillor J. T. SIMM (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors M. Baxter, D. Bennett, P. Bradley, A. Guest, J.P.,
C.C., T. Murton, W. Nixon, T. Parkinson, J. A. Simpkin,
A. A. Hesketh, J. D. Peel.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor J. T. SIMM (Chairman) and all members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

January to July, 1947 : Dr. KENNETH FRASER.

July to December, 1947 : Dr. J. G. HAILWOOD.

Sanitary Inspector : Mr. F. BUTTERFIELD.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES, ORRELL.

August, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District of Orrell for the Year 1947.

Comment is required on some aspects of the Report. The number of births have again increased during 1947 and reached a total of 185 against 160 in 1946, producing an Annual Birth Rate of 21·2, an increase of 2·6 over the preceding year. This compares favourably with the rate of 20·5 for England and Wales. On the other hand, the Infant Mortality Rate rose to 70 per 1,000 Live Births compared with 43 last year and 41 for England and Wales. This increase in the Infant Death Rate somewhat offsets the satisfactory increase in the Birth Rate, especially since the Infant Mortality Rate is often regarded as an indication of the general health of the community. Improved environmental conditions, more houses and improved mothercraft are some of the factors which will eventually produce a permanent reduction of the Infant Death Rate.

The General Death Rate was 13·8, an increase of 2·8 over 1946. It is probable that this increase is due to the exceptionally severe weather conditions during the opening months of the year, and which was responsible for a high death rate amongst the elderly.

The Maternal Mortality was again nil, and it is satisfactory to note that there have been no deaths due to child birth during the last three years in this District.

The number of Infectious Diseases remained low and calls for no special comment except to note that only three mild cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis, with no deaths, occurred in the district during the outbreak of the disease which was general throughout the country during the summer of 1947.

Finally, I should like to thank the Members of the Staff for their co-operation during the year, and also Miss A. Kenny who has helped with the Clerical Work of the Health Department and the completion of this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. G. HAILWOOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,617
Population—Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,949
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1947							8,718
Number of Inhabited Houses :—							
(a) Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,682
(b) End of 1947, according to Rate Books	..	..					2,676
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£34,715
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£131

Social Conditions.—The township of Orrell is a residential district in an agricultural area. The working class houses are built along the borders of farm lands. Coal mining and the cotton industry afford the chief employment. They are situated outside the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births	{	Legitimate ..	..	181	..	86	.. 95
		Illegitimate..	..	4	..	2	.. 2
Total		..	..	..	185	..	88 .. 97

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated population mid-1947.. 21·2

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Still-births	..	..	..	..	3	..	1 .. 2
Deaths	..	..	..	..	121	..	66 .. 55
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated population						..	13·8
Maternal Mortality	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	70
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..				71
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	22
compared with 6 in 1946.				
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		..	..	nil.
Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages)	..	..	..	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			..	nil.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.
Orrell Urban District ..	70 ..	43 ..	50 ..	58 ..	32 ..	82
England and Wales	41 ..	43 ..	46 ..	46 ..	49 ..	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	47 ..	45 ..	54 ..	52 ..	58 ..	59
148 Smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	36 ..	37 ..	43 ..	44 ..	46 ..	46
London Administrative County	37 ..	41 ..	53 ..	61 ..	58 ..	60

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

	<i>Per 1,000 of estimated Population.</i>				<i>Maternal Mortality Rate.</i>		
<i>Population :—</i>	<i>Death-rate</i>				<i>Per</i>	<i>Rate of</i>	
<i>Estimate 1947 :</i>	<i>from</i>				<i>1,000</i>	<i>deaths</i>	
<i>(a) for Birth-</i>	<i>Tuber- Death</i>				<i>Per</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>under one</i>
<i>rates</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Crude</i>	<i>culosis of</i>	<i>rate</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Live &</i>	<i>year per</i>
<i>(b) for Death-</i>	<i>Birth-</i>	<i>Death-</i>	<i>Respirat'y</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Still-</i>	<i>1,000 Live</i>
<i>rates 8,718.</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>System.</i>	<i>Cancer.</i>	<i>births.</i>	<i>births.</i>	<i>births.</i>
Mean of five years 1942-46	18.3	12.4	0.33	1.58	1.17	1.11	53
Year 1946 ..	18.6	11.0	0.23	0.69	Nil	Nil	43
Year 1947 ..	21.2	13.8	0.34	2.52	Nil	Nil	70
Increase or de- crease in 1947 on 5 years' aver. 1942-46	+2.9	+1.4	+0.01	+0.94	—1.17	—1.11	+17
Previous year	+2.6	+2.8	+0.11	+1.83	Nil	Nil	+27

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1947.

						<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	..	..	..			1	2
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	..	..	..			1	—
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	10	12
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions			..	..		8	8
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	17	7
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	..					1	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	4	3
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	4	2
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	..	..	..			1	2
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Premature Birth	..	..	..	..		2	4
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries	..					1	1
Other Violent Causes	..	..	..	..		2	—
All Other Causes	..	..	..	..		10	9
						<u>66</u>	<u>55</u>

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

<i>Disease.</i>	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.
Scarlet Fever	.. 16	.. 16	.. 18	.. 21	.. 30	.. 15
Whooping Cough	.. 8	.. 24	.. 4	.. 16	.. 21	.. 19
Diphtheria	.. 6	.. 1	.. 2	.. —	.. 1	.. 9
Erysipelas	.. —	.. 2	.. 1	.. 4	.. 4	.. 2
Measles	.. 59	.. 98	.. 142	.. 7	.. 165	.. 28
Pneumonia	.. 1	.. 4	.. 11	.. 11	.. 10	.. 6
Cerebro Spinal Fever	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. 1	.. 1	.. —
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	.. —	.. —	.. 1	.. —	.. 1
Meningitis	.. 2	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. —
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. —
Totals	.. 96	.. 145	.. 178	.. 61	.. 232	.. 80

During the Year 1947 they were distributed in the Wards as follows :—

<i>Disease.</i>				<i>East Ward. West Ward.</i>	
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	6	10
Diphtheria	..	..	..	5	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	—	1
Measles	..	..	..	50	9
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	3	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	1	—
Meningitis	..	..	..	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	2	1
				69	27

AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1947.

<i>Age Groups.</i>			<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	<i>Whooping Cough.</i>	<i>Diphtheria.</i>	<i>Measles.</i>	<i>Pneumonia.</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia.</i>	<i>Meningitis.</i>	<i>Poliomyelitis.</i>
Under 1 year		..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
1-2 years	..	..	—	2	—	6	—	—	—	—
2-3	..	..	1	1	1	19	—	—	1	1
3-4	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-5	..	..	1	1	—	15	—	—	—	2
5-10	..	..	2	3	3	15	—	—	—	—
10-15	..	..	9	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-20	..	..	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20-25	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	..	..	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
35-45	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45-65	..	..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65-upwards	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			16	8	6	59	1	1	2	3

Scarlet Fever.—As in the previous year 16 cases were notified and 13 cases were school children under the age of 14 years. Five cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Whelley.

Pneumonia.—One case occurred in the district, in the West Ward.

Measles.—55 cases were notified during the first three months of the year, and only 4 cases from April to December. The infection occurred chiefly in children between the age of one to ten years, and most of the cases were in the East Ward. There was one death from Measles, a child aged seven months.

Whooping Cough.—Whooping Cough accounted for eight cases, occurring in the first month of the year. The age incidence can be seen in the Table given above.

Meningitis.—Both cases occurred in children between the age of under one year to three years, and they were removed to the Hospital.

Poliomyelitis.—In July there was a general outbreak of this disease throughout the Country. Three cases occurred in children between the age of two to five years, one case was removed to the Wigan Infirmary and the other two cases received treatment at the Out-Patients' Orthopædic Department. There were no deaths.

The case of *puerperal pyrexia* was removed to Hospital.

Diphtheria.—There were six cases of Diphtheria notified, and their ages ranged from three to 35 years. Four cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. One child, age 3 years, died; she had not been previously immunised against the disease.

Immunisation against Diphtheria has been continued during the year. Since the commencement of the Scheme in 1942 up to the end of 1947, a total of 1,124 children, under the age of 15 years, completed the full course of injections, that is, 56 per cent. under the age of 5 years, and 57 per cent. between the age of 5 to 14 years. During 1947, 198 children received the injections for the first time, and 13 children received a Third or Re-Inforcing injection. It is very important that every effort be made to secure the immunisation of all the children, especially those under the age of 5 years. The School Children are treated in the Schools, while the Pre-School Children are treated either at the Schools or at the Child Welfare Centre. The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health. The immunising agent used is Alum Precipitated Toxoid in doses of 0.2 C.C. followed by 0.5 C.C. a month later. Immunity is acquired some two to three months after the last injection.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE FULL COURSE OF INJECTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1947.

*Age at 31/12/47,
i.e., Children born
in the Year 1947.*

	46.	45.	44.	43.	42.	41.	40.	39.	38.	36.	34
Number											
Immunised ..	24	80	36	19	13	3	6	4	6	4	2 1
Total:	198.										

TABLE SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN IMMUNISED SINCE THE COUNCIL'S SCHEME WAS PUT INTO OPERATION IN JULY, 1942.

		1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	Total.
Under 1 year ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	61	Under 5 years at end of 1947
	1 „ ..	4	11	12	23	25	70	
	2 years ..	6	13	17	24	28	23	
	3 „ ..	9	14	17	16	14	13	
	4 „ ..	18	20	16	20	3	10	
<hr/>								487
5 „ ..	38	12	4	—	6	3	Between the age 5-14 years 637	
6 „ ..	31	19	6	5	7	5		
7 „ ..	29	16	7	1	4	4		
8 „ ..	33	12	3	2	2	4		
9 „ ..	41	14	9	—	1	2		
10 „ ..	43	17	8	3	3	1		
11 „ ..	59	40	13	—	1	1		
12 „ ..	36	18	3	2	2	—		
13 „ ..	49	15	2	—	—	1		
14 „ ..	—	—	—	—	—	—		
<hr/>								
Totals.. ..		396	221	117	96	96	198	1,124

Hospital Accommodation.—There is no Hospital or Nursing Home situated within the area. The district is well served by general and specialised hospitals. Emergency cases received prompt attention and the ambulance service was satisfactory. Infectious cases requiring isolation are accommodated in the Isolation Hospital at Whelley in the Borough of Wigan,

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Notifications received during the year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows:—

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

<i>Age Periods.</i>				<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
				<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
<i>Years.</i>				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0-1	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	..	..	..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	..	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
35-45	..	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	..			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	..		2	2	2	—	1	2	—	—
				4		2		3		nil.	

Notification of Tuberculosis is usually prompt and satisfactory. The County Council provide facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis at the Dispensary, 3, Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan.

Schools.—A School Clinic is provided by the County Council at Orrell Road, Orrell, where children may attend for inspection and treatment of Minor Ailments. A Specialist attends the Ophthalmic Session which is held weekly at the Clinic. The Assistant County Medical Officer is in attendance at the School Clinic, and is also responsible for the carrying out of the Routine Medical Inspection of the children in the Schools. The School Attendance Officer supplies a weekly return of the children who are absent from school through sickness. It has not been found necessary to close any of the Schools during the past year.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—An Infant Welfare Clinic is held each Thursday afternoon at the Orrell Road Clinic. A Special Antenatal Clinic is held alternate Wednesday afternoons. The attendances at all the Clinics have been very good.

Water Supply.—The town's supply is mainly derived from an old mine shaft at Dean Wood off Gathurst Road. It is a good potable water, ample, and its quality remains fairly constant as proved by frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations. The water is supplied direct to the houses by public mains. The mains were flushed regularly to remove "ochre" deposits.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.—A new septic tank and filter was constructed by the Winstanley Estate at Captain's Clough to give purification treatment to the sewage from houses in Brook Lane prior to discharging the effluent into the stream at Captain's Clough.

The drainage from six houses, 3 to 13, Oxhouse Road, which formerly discharged into a stream known as the Sandbrook, has been reconstructed and made to discharge into a sewer.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No major extensions to the drainage and sewerage systems were carried out this year.

Closet Accommodation.—There are 43 middens with 69 closets serving houses considered for demolition.

Public Cleansing.—Three men are engaged full time on street cleansing and six men and a refuse vehicle on refuse collection, which is disposed of by controlled tipping on a newly acquired refuse tip at Captain's Clough on the town's southern boundary.

Offensive Trades.—There were no trades under this group, or any premises under the Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

Shops Act, 1934, and Public Health Acts, 1936.—There was no action taken. Conditions were satisfactory.

Factory and Workshops Acts.—There were 32 workshops on the register. Periodical inspections found conditions satisfactory.

Housing Statistics.—Seven houses were erected and completed by private enterprise during the year. This Local Authority completed and tenanted 44 pre-fabricated bungalows at Green Hey and 6 permanent traditional type houses at Rivers Street and Pinewood Crescent, the latter being part of a first contract of 44 permanent houses. The Council have since commenced two further housing contracts on this site for 30 houses and 12 houses respectively and have purchased further land for house building purposes of sufficient extent to permit of a further 200 houses being erected thereon.

The houses so far erected have been of three distinct types comprising two and three bedroom houses, the latter being partly parlour and partly non-parlour type houses.

The number of dwellings inspected for housing defects number 752, of these 34 were found to be unfit for human habitation and 718 were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.

Defects in 585 houses were remedied as the result of informal action. Informal notices served on owners numbered 252 and Statutory Notices numbered 19. In 48 cases repairs were carried out by the Local Authority in default of the owners.

The chief sanitary defects were wastage of water, defective roofs and sanitary fittings.

Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.—There were 17 dairy farms housing approximately 200 cows. The number of cow keepers (including the dairy farms) was 17. Dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cow-keepers) numbered 29. Inspections made periodically numbered 60. General cleanliness in the shippens and their surroundings was observed. Several minor building defects were remedied. Samples of fresh milk were examined and proved satisfactory.

Food Inspection.—Three barrels of orange fruit pulp and 19 Canadian eggs were condemned as unfit for human food. Pigs slaughtered in the district for private consumption were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Sanitary Requirements of the District.—The erection of new houses, the abolition of privy middens, completion of the water carriage system and the demolition of approximately 100 sub-standard houses and their replacement by new dwellings.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1947.

Blocked or Defective W.C's.	17
Insufficient and Defective Provision for House Refuse	90
Blocked Sewers	3
Blocked and Defective Drains	29
Defective Houses	596
Defective Spouts	20
Houses Disinfected	20
Eradication of Bed Bugs	2
Rats in Houses (number of houses)	12
Sanitary Inspections (including Housing) numbered..	752
Number of Defects or Nuisances discovered	752
Number of Defects or Nuisances abated	677

Requiring 252 informal, and 19 statutory notices.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

	1946.	1947.
No. of ashpits emptied during the year ..	296 ..	323
„ dustbins emptied during the year ..	64,169 ..	66,821
„ loads removed during the year ..	1,303 ..	1,304
„ privy closets in the district	69 ..	69
„ pail closets in the district	6 ..	6
„ privy ashpits in the district	43 ..	43
„ dry ashpits in the district	6 ..	6
„ dustbins in the district	2,568 ..	2,690
„ fresh water-closets	2,617 ..	2,674

